

**Introduced by Senator Peace**

February 25, 2000

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An act to add Section 3209.10 to the Labor Code, relating to workers' compensation.

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

SB 1977, as introduced, Peace. Workers' compensation: physician assistants and nurse practitioners.

Existing law requires the physician first treating a workers' compensation claimant for injuries to submit a report ('Doctor's First Report of Occupational Injury or Illness') to the employer within 5 working days from the date of the initial exam.

This bill would permit a physician assistant or nurse practitioner, as specified, to complete the Doctor's First Report of Occupational Injury or Illness and to authorize temporary disability, if necessary, for a period not to exceed 7 calendar days or as included in standardized procedures or protocols. The bill would provide that its provisions are not to be construed to authorize physician assistants or nurse practitioners to determine permanent disability, need for future medical care, apportionment, vocational rehabilitation, or any medical legal evaluation.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.



*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 3209.10 is added to the Labor  
2 Code, to read:

3 3209.10. Notwithstanding any other provision of law,  
4 medical treatment of a work related injury to cure or  
5 relieve the effects of the injury may be provided by a state  
6 licensed physician assistant or nurse practitioner,  
7 pursuant to standardized procedures or protocols within  
8 their lawfully authorized scope of practice. The  
9 supervising physician of the physician assistant or nurse  
10 practitioner is the treating physician; however, the  
11 physician assistant and nurse practitioner are authorized  
12 to complete the initial report required by subdivision (a)  
13 of Section 4603.2, and to authorize temporary disability,  
14 if necessary, for a period not to exceed seven calendar  
15 days or as included in the standardized procedures or  
16 protocols.

17 Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize  
18 physician assistants or nurse practitioners to determine  
19 permanent disability, need for future medical care,  
20 apportionment, vocational rehabilitation, or any medical  
21 legal evaluation.

